

HONORING COLONEL RONALD LIGHT AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT IN WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Ronald Light and the men and women of the Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District, MED, located in Winchester, Virginia, for the support they have provided for troops deployed overseas.

Colonel Light, commander of the MED, has had a distinguished military career since his graduation from The Pennsylvania State University in 1981. As an officer, he has completed the Engineer Officer's Basic and Advanced courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff Officer Course, and the U.S. Army Airborne School, while earning a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College.

For his service, Colonel Light has been awarded the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, five awards for Meritorious Service, two Army Commendation medals, the Army Medal of Achievement, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among others.

As the senior engineer commander responsible for reconstructions in Al Anbar and Baghdad provinces in Iraq, he managed the award of 194 projects valued at \$1.32 billion and completed contracts worth an additional \$782.4 million.

Since Colonel Light assumed command at the MED in 2009, employment has approximately doubled from 250 to 500 personnel. The MED employs 427 civilians comprising 23 nationalities, 53 advanced degrees and 24 different languages all dedicated toward the goal of preparing combat theaters for members of the military. The MED employs local accountants, architects, attorneys, paralegals, engineers, property managers, security specialists, and many others.

The MED has proved extremely beneficial not only to the U.S. Military, but also to Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley. The MED partners with local civic organizations, churches and school groups to help carry out many critical engineering projects abroad. The integration of the military and the surrounding communities will create a precedent for more companies to locate in Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley, recognizing the presence of a trained workforce and relative proximity to our nation's capital.

Colonel Light and the MED's dedication to the armed forces has advanced the mission of all military units in forward theaters of combat. We express our appreciation to the dedicated individuals staffing the MED for their service and honor them as the best of our military officers and civilians have to offer.

CONGRATULATING JAMES HUNTER AND JOE LAROSE OF THE ROCK BRIDGE BRUINS MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Hunter and Joe LaRose of the Rock Bridge Bruins Men's Tennis Team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Doubles Championship on May 28.

These young men should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the 2 A Doubles Tennis Championship to their school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing James Hunter and Joe LaRose for a job well done!

**HONORING JEFFREY GRALNICK**

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jeffrey Gralnick, who passed away this past May at the age of 72. A legendary news executive and producer, Jeff's 52-year career began with the black-and-white news segments of the 1950s and grew into leadership positions at nearly all the major broadcast networks including ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and MSNBC.

One of the first producers of "60 Minutes," Jeff worked with Walter Cronkite, Don Hewitt, Dan Rather, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters, Brian Williams, Katie Couric, and Tom Brokaw. As an executive producer and network executive, Jeff oversaw the broadcasts of space launches, presidential elections, and was in charge of the CBS news desk on the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Jeff's enduring legacy is memorialized in the people he mentored over the years who are employed throughout the news industry. A tough and demanding teacher, Jeff was always eager to share his knowledge and experiences with younger coworkers. His intense character, professionalism, and integrity have left a lasting impression throughout the news industry.

A fierce competitor with a tireless work ethic, Jeff was always welcome to new challenges. After beating his first bout with cancer in his early sixties, Jeff found inspiration in the saying "as soon as you feel too old to do something do it," and decided to climb to the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro, nearly making it to the top.

I offer my condolences to Jeff's wife of 41 years, Beth, their son Robert, their daughter Kate and her husband Tim, their grandson Adam, and Jeff's brother Bill. Even though Jeff passed away this past May, his work will live on through the broadcasts he has produced, the networks he helped shape, and the anchors and producers he mentored throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. VLADIMIR SWIRYNSKY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Vladimir Swirynsky, one of Cleveland's most prominent poets.

Born in Germany on May 20, 1948, Vladimir Swirynsky immigrated to the United States in 1952. After completing his education, Vladimir served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Long Bien and worked as a morning report clerk. Following his service, Vladimir returned to Cleveland, married, and began a career at Republic Steel.

In 1994, after a divorce, Vladimir left Cleveland in search of healing and found solace in the arts. He travelled to New Orleans, celebrated Mardi Gras, joined a band and began reading poetry. He was enthralled by poetry and realized his own talents. He spent years travelling around the country and perfecting his newfound creative outlet.

Today, Mr. Swirynsky has published thirteen books of poetry and is celebrated as one of Cleveland's finest poets.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Mr. Vladimir Swirynsky. His story and poetry will continue to inspire all of those who hear his prose.

**HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD—AMERICA'S FIRST IN THE NATION AIR GUARD UNIT**

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNEAPOLIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Air National Guard on the 90th anniversary of its founding. The Minnesota Air National Guard holds the distinction of being the first in our nation Air Unit of the National Guard recognized by the United States government.

The Minnesota Air National Guard took flight with humble, but honorable beginnings. On September 26, 1920 Captain Ray S. Miller and two other Minnesotans rented a Curtiss Oriole biplane to launch an 8-day flight to Washington, DC. Their mission was to be the first federally recognized National Guard flying squadron. Subsequently the 109th Observation Squadron, the predecessor to today's Minnesota Air National Guard, passed muster inspection on January 17th, 1921.

The creation of the 109th Minnesota Observation Squadron created the flight path for Minnesotans to continue making history while serving our state and our nation. The 133rd Airlift Wing (133rd AW) of the Minnesota Air National Guard Wing is headquartered at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, and provides the U.S. Air Force with tactical airlift of troops, cargo, and medical patients anywhere in the world utilizing the C-130 Hercules. The 148th Fighter Wing (148th FW),